

Performers

From front page

said. "I didn't expect to win, as the military's idea of talent is usually singing."

With her winning performance, Goodman earned a trophy as well as \$5,000 for APG Morale Welfare and Recreation.

A poet by heredity, her mother is a well known poet in Philadelphia, where Goodman was raised. Goodman is raising two sons herself, which, for now, along with her dedication to her military career, will keep her close to home.

"I was offered a place in the Soldier Show on the spot," she said. That offer is on the table for three years, she added.

"I would love to travel and sing, and especially to introduce new talent into the Soldier Show, not just singers. Then maybe everybody can get to do something they're good at," Goodman said.

To keep her poetry skills sharp, Goodman performs at local poetry spots, as well as the post talent show, and at the Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers banquet this past fall.

And the opportunities keep coming. Goodman has received a number of calls in the week since her win. Black History Month is in February, and she has had a number of offers. But, her schooling comes first, and being in classes Monday through Friday will keep her performing on the weekends only. That should allow her plenty of time to make a name for herself in the region.

"A lot of doors are opening up for me," she said.

Two other known APG stars performed in the competition. Staff Sgt. Antonio Lewis, 143rd Ordnance Battalion competed against Goodman in the "Specialty Solo" category, placing second.

A rapper, raised in an

underprivileged area of Norfolk, Va., Lewis writes rhymes about being on public assistance and growing up with two brothers and a mother struggling to rear them. He performed "Back in the Day" at the competition.

"Everything's all right now," Lewis said of his childhood problems.

Learning a lot from competing, Lewis plans to be on stage every chance he gets, and takes every opportunity as the chance to better his skills.

"I knew I could do it, but I didn't expect to be one of the ones picked for this show. For me to get selected over so many others, doing rap and hip hop, it was a big deal for me," he said.

A 10-year Soldier, Lewis lives with his wife and two sons and has been here at APG for 13 months. In that short time, he competed in both post talent shows and the BOSS banquet with Goodman.

The final APG Soldier to perform in the Stars of Tomorrow contest was APG's own Military Idol competitor, Capt. Scott Willens.

Singing Air Supply's "All Out of Love," Willens competed against five other male singers. Several of the male and female performers were former Military Idol competitors, which led to a reunion Willens was pleased to join in.

"There were some really good performers," he said. "I was honored to be included. Sometimes people are just better than you are."

One of the highlights of the show, to Willens, was a singer who transformed pop, rap and R&B tunes into country songs, provoking the audience into hysterics.

But, the real fun during the trip, he said, was taking a private first class from Korea, who'd never been to the United States, to Potomac Mills Shopping Center. The private had been given \$500 from his unit to spend on a new wardrobe, and Willens said, he was very, very excited.

With a new baby and an active job in the Veterinary Corps of the U.S. Army Medical Research Institute of Chemical Defense, Willens



Photos by TIM HIPPS, USACFSC PUBLIC AFFAIRS
Staff Sgt. Antonio Lewis, takes second place in the specialty solo category of the Army's 2006 Margaret "Skipppy" Lynn Stars of Tomorrow Talent Contest with an original rap.

doesn't plan on auditioning for the Soldier Show this year. He was asked to perform at the Army Birthday Ball this summer, and plans to sing wherever he can in the future.

Goodman and Lewis were called into Garrison Commander Col. John T. Wright's office Jan. 29 for congratulations.

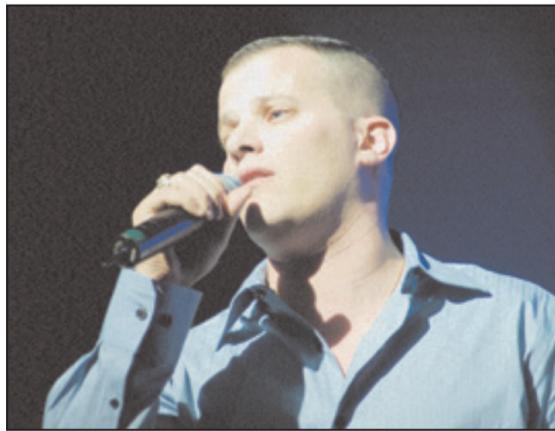
"This is great," Wright said. "You've generated your own talent, not just demonstrated

someone else's."

Goodman asked MWR if the \$5,000 she earned them could be used towards the post boxing program, as Lewis is a coach and Goodman herself is an avid fan.

Looking towards the future, Goodman is excited at the possibilities that await her.

"I'm on cloud eight," she said. "I'll be on cloud nine when I'm in the Soldier Show!"



Capt. Scott Willens, a veterinarian at the U.S. Army's Medical Research Institute of Chemical Defense, sings Air Supply's "All Out of Love" during the Army's 2006 Margaret "Skipppy" Lynn Stars of Tomorrow Talent Contest Jan. 21 at Fort Belvoir, Va.

Voice

From front page

As a result of the program, awareness of RDECOM has increased among Soldiers.

"RDECOM is not known by many Soldiers in the lower ranks," Alcivar explained. "Now they [Soldiers] can feel like they are a part of the branch and the improvement of new equipment. They now have a voice and have a tool in which they can use to iden-

tify their issues."

The program, deemed successful thus far by Alcivar, will be a continuous one. Plans for distributing 10,000 new and improved comment cards have been initiated.

While he described the previous feedback as "sufficient," more detailed questions would stimulate more production. The new questions cover a wide array of technology topics, and will allow RDECOM to "obtain more specific information to assist Soldiers in providing

better quality of feedback."

RDECOM's main customer, the Warfighter, is key in the success of the program. We need cooperation and continuous support for the program to assist them and provide better support, Alcivar said.

Soldiers who have questions or comments can contact RDECOM in three ways: by e-mail at techproposals@belvoir.mil, by phone at 703-806-0919, or by mail at Systems of Systems Integration, Chief of Operations, 6000 6th Street, Fort Belvoir, VA 22060-5608.